

Any decision by the FCC with respect to mandated copy protection as a means of increasing the value of the temporary monopolies granted by congress for the sole purpose of promoting the progress of science and the useful arts, in this case copyrights, must carefully weigh the total impact in achieving this goal.

The best data suggest that while extensions to protection clearly increase the profitability of copyright holders, they have little or no value in promoting the progress of science and the useful arts.

A free and open marketplace, where users are free to use new products as they see fit has unequivocally driven the progress of science and the useful arts, and in so doing has created many industries each more important to the economy than the entire entertainment industry.

There is no obligation on the part of congress or the FCC to extend the power or strength of copyrights, which, to quote Thomas Jefferson "may or may not be done, according to the will and convenience of the society, without claim or complaint from any body."

Please do not hobble our most valuable industries in favor of support for an economically trivial, if highly vocal one.